

POLITICAL.

Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury. WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Some new developments in the Radical programme were made in the House today. The bills recommended by the caucus of last week, for the exclusion of the members from the ten unrepresented States from future Congresses, and to prevent those States from participating in future Presidential elections, were reported from the Judiciary Committee. The former (as your readers will observe by the Congressional report), passed by a solid Radical vote, and the latter was postponed until Thursday, when it will no doubt be adopted.

Several of the more Conservative Republican members have expressed their disapprobation of both of these measures, but the tie of party is so strong that they will hardly dare oppose what now seems to be the evident intent of the majority of the House; and there is no good reason to hope for anything better from the Senate, although some tolerably well informed persons profess to believe that the latter body will proceed with caution on all such measures. A few weeks will doubtless suffice to determine how far they are correct.

THE TARIFF—INTERNAL REVENUE. The regular lobby on the tariff and internal revenue bills has made its appearance at the capitol. A delegation of New York merchants will be here in a day or two to oppose the House tariff bill, now before the Senate Committee on Finance. It is highly "protective" in character, and the object of the New Yorkers is to render it less obnoxious in that respect, if possible. There is very little hope, however, for a free trade tariff, or anything like it, so long as Eastern manufacturers wield such a potential influence in shaping the legislation of the country. The internal revenue tax will probably be reduced by placing certain articles now subject to taxation on all taxable articles.

The pressure for a reduction of the Cotton tax continues to increase, and the Ways and Means Committee are said to be divided in opinion on the subject. They will hardly come to any conclusion on the amended tax bill (which will contain the Cotton tax) until sometime in January.

IMPARTIAL SUFFRAGE. The sessions of the Senate for the past two days, have been occupied with the discussion of the District Negro Suffrage bills. The galleries have been filled with negroes, who appear to enjoy their privilege exceedingly. The establishment of unqualified and unlimited negro suffrage in this District, seems to be a fixed fact, and although President Johnson is earnestly opposed to any and every measure of the kind, yet he is comparatively powerless, as over two-thirds of each House are against him.

MILITIA IN SOUTHERN STATES. Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, has a joint resolution which he will offer this week. It proposes to disband all militia organizations now existing in the ten unrepresented States, and to prohibit the formation of such organizations hereafter. The subject has also been under consideration in the House Military Committee, and I understand is favorably regarded by that body.

COMPENSATION FOR SLAVES. Congress at its last session passed an act authorizing compensation to be paid to parties in the States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, whose slaves enlisted in the military service of the United States during the late war.

The act has been partly executed by the appointment of commissioners in the aforesaid States, to examine and report upon the claims. It is now proposed, however, to repeal the law, and of course suspend the payment authorized by it. The general impression is that this will be done.

APPOINTING POWER. There has been no abatement in the zeal of the opponents of the President, to withdraw from his control, as far as possible, the power of appointment to, and removal from office. The subject engaged, the consideration of the House to-day, and is being vigorously pressed by Radicals in each end of the capitol.

CHANGE IN THE TIME FOR THE MEETING OF CONGRESS. According to the bill which passed the House yesterday, the next (or fortieth) Congress will convene on the 4th of March instead of the first Monday in December as heretofore.—There seems to be no doubt that this measure will be finally enacted over a veto, although there is said to be no little opposition to it in the Senate.

BANKRUPT BILL. The Senate will shortly consider the House bill, for the establishment of an uniform system of bankruptcy

throughout the United States. As the bill now stands it applies equally to all the States. It is questionable, however, whether it will finally pass in that shape.

MAIL SERVICE IN THE SOUTH. Postoffice Department is said to be preparing to extend the mail service over the old established routes in the Southern States, and I understand that the work will go on as rapidly as circumstances will permit. K.

Correspondence of the Courier. WASHINGTON, Dec.—The Radicals were so fearful that some of the ex-rebels now abroad or unpardoned at home, should escape arraignment and conviction of treason, under the clause of the law of 1790, limiting prosecution for offences to the term of three years after they are committed, that they are about to pass a Bill to repeal that clause. There is no doubt that the Radicals intend that many of the leading men of the Southern Confederate States shall yet be tried and punished in some way. Therefore they will repeal the amnesty Act of 1862, and also render confiscations which have been made absolute instead of limited to the term of the life of the party.

Mr. Stevens took an eccentric course upon this Bill. He unexpectedly opposed it, declaring that it would be a mere absurdity to undertake to convict any one of treason under laws which did not exist at the time when the overt act was alleged to have been committed. He strongly insisted that no one—not Jefferson Davis—could be convicted of treason. Mr. Stevens' theory is that the Confederacy became an alien and hostile portion by the rebellion; the Federal Government subdued it, and now holds it as a conquered country. The trial of Mr. Davis upon the indictment for treason is undoubtedly to take place in May or June. But it is regarded as doubtful whether he can be convicted of treason. No jury that could be obtained in Virginia would agree upon a verdict of guilty. Knowing this, it is not improbable that Congress will get up some Bill for changing the venue. There has been talk of a plan for holding the trial in this District under the indictment found here.

THE TERRITORIAL CONDITION.—We believe the Congressional dominant faction is nearly at an end of their course, when they propose to reduce the Southern States to the condition of territories. So long as President Johnson has the appointment of the officers of the contemplated territories, their scheme of oppression would be baffled. The radicals might reject his nominations, but he would only have to make new appointees, and there would therefore be a dead lock. But they propose a new plan to avoid this end of their schemes, and that is to give Chief Justice Chase the appointing power for the Southern territories. To do this, they would have again to over-ride the Constitution; but it is possible the Chief Justice himself would check their operations at this point, thus effectually putting an end to their plottings.

The New York World in a long and able article, discusses the contemplated new condition of the Southern States, and comes to the conclusion, that even if the new Governments were put in operation against an adverse local opinion a new dead-lock would immediately be presented in a constant conflict between prosecuting officers and Southern juries:

"Laws are of no more force without penalties, and penalties can be inflicted only after a trial. For the punishment of ordinary crimes and the ordinary administration of justice, Southern juries would doubtless give impartial verdicts under the new system, as they do now. But in enforcing the kind of laws which the territorial scheme seeks to introduce Southern juries could not be brought to agree except on verdicts of acquittal. All laws of that class would be a dead letter, which vain attempts to execute would turn into derision.

"These difficulties and obstacles will be apparent to Congress as soon as the territorial project begins to be discussed in a practical view. It is contrary to all probability that the conflicting views which will naturally exist can be so completely reconciled as to secure the assent of two-thirds of both Houses to the details of any plan of the Government. But without assent of both Houses it would be promptly knocked in the head by the veto, the dead-lock appearing in a new place."

But if the Territorial bill should be carried over the President's veto, and the officers all appointed, and the machinery of the new domination in complete running order, the World presents a very supposable case, which would eventuate in a blow-up of the whole scheme. Let a warrant be issued for the arrest of a citizen.

His counsel immediately prosecutes the officer for illegal arrest, and if the case is decided against him in the local court, it is appealed, and the law-point carried up by rapid stages to the Supreme Court of the United States. There can be no doubt whatever that the Territorial law would be decided null and void by that Court.

This, we think, is a fair and correct programme of the course of events, should the Territorial scheme be carried through the Congress. Its termination, we believe, would also terminate the party who seeks to oppress us.—Columbia Phoenix.

THE END NOT YET.—The Richmond Times says that no plan, scheme or suggestion for a "reconstruction" which will restore the Southern States to their rights which has emanated from the Radical party is sincere.—They are all false and hypocritical. Their ingenuity has been taxed to the utmost to invent plans which they knew we would reject, in order that the odium of the rejection should be cast upon us.

But if we were to adopt the "Amendment" to-morrow they would reject it, and if we were to offer negro suffrage as the price of our re-admission they would reject it. That such is the case there are already ample proofs. Many of their leaders during the last month have become possessed of the idea that there is some probability of our acceding to the terms which have been proposed.

These men now insist that the Southern States shall not be restored to their rights until the negro has been thoroughly educated and made to understand the value of the right of suffrage.

Without this they declare that the right of suffrage is worthless. By New England school masters, preachers, lecturers and newspapers, the negro must be taught that his interests are antagonistic to those of his late master before Congress should release it held upon us.

Calypso (Va.) Observer.

There are signs in the political heavens suggestive of no good to our people. Within thirty days we shall probably know our fate. The existence of the state hangs in the balance and will be determined by the present Congress. Important information is understood to be on its way hither, which may require political action at once with an eye to the adoption of measures that shall change the course of our present interest. The probability of a State Convention between now and the first of April.—Carolinian.

A RETURNED CALIFORNIAN CLEARED OUT.—A gentleman by the name Geo. W. Cleveland, a former resident of Spring Place, Georgia, but for the past eight years a citizen of California, while on his return to his former home had his pocket picked, as is supposed, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad cars; between Alexandria and Calpepper Court-house, of \$5,750, the entire fruits of his eight years' labor. The victim of this heavy robbery is confident that he had his money when he got on the train, and only missed it at Calpepper. The sum was in greenbacks, and was carried in an envelope in his pantaloons pocket. As soon as the loss was ascertained, Capt. Peyton, the conductor of the train was informed of it, and at his suggestion a thorough search was made of the person and baggage of every one in the same car with Mr. Cleveland, but with out result.—Lynchburg News.

DISTRESS IN MISSISSIPPI.—A correspondent of the Memphis Avalanche states that there are twenty thousand dependent orphans and widows in Mississippi who need immediate relief. The more favored classes in the State, are doing what they can to relieve the helpless sufferers; but the sad failure in the crops renders adequate relief at home impracticable. Aid from abroad, is therefore, indispensable. The Orphans' Home of the State of Mississippi, located at Lauderdale Springs, is doing a noble work for the poor sufferers. But more than two hundred applications have been made already for admittance to the "Home" whose cases have been postponed for want of means to feed them.

An earnest appeal is made for assistance in supporting and extending the "Home," and it is certain that the people of Memphis, who have the means, will not be slow in giving material aid.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A proposition to hold a Convention of the Governors of the Southern States, to consider, and determine what course should be pursued, in order to meet the legal demand of Congress and the radical party, is now under consideration by prominent Southerners, who are, and have been in correspondence with the Governors spoken of.

THE JOURNAL.

L. W. R. BLAIR, EDITOR.

Friday, December 21, 1866.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We have been requested by Mr. Gess, to call attention to his advertisement in another column, and to repeat here, that all those indebted to him who do not make some satisfactory arrangement, previous to the first of January will find their accounts in the hands of an attorney for collection. Dec. 21.

Summ Clique.

Our friend of the Charleston Mercury complains that the Journal has used an article of his without due credit. The Editor of the Journal was absent at the time referred to by the Mercury, and is not responsible for the inadvertence.—He regrets its occurrence, however, and will try to guard against a repetition of such injustice to any of his brethren of the pen and scissors.

Good News for Camden.

The Charleston Mercury of Saturday says: "The British bark, The Queen, Captain STRAIN, from Bristol, England, brings good news for our friends in Camden, in the shape of five hundred and fifty tons of the best rails for the restoration of that branch of the South Carolina Railroad, which had to be used to repair the main stem, after the 'great march.' We congratulate our friends in Kershaw, at the prospect of an early 'reconstruction,' as another large ship is on the way with the balance of the iron, and if they have had 'to wait for the wagon,' it is not likely to happen again, after these British rails are laid down."

Oysters.

We are indebted to Mr. J. W. ROBERTS, for a bowl of his superb Norfolk Oysters. Mr. R. always has them on hand at his Restaurant, and we are told by connoisseurs, that he serves them up in a style to suit the most fastidious taste.

Labor—Immigration.

We publish on our first page, the report of the Special Committee of the Legislature, on the subject of encouraging European Immigration. The committee consists of JOHN WAGNER, SAMUEL LOEB, Jr., and P. J. COOK.—The known ability of the chairman of the committee, and the attention he has given the subject for many years, renders the report doubly interesting, and though of considerable length, it will amply repay a perusal.

Robberies and Incurdianism.

On Sunday night last, the Drug Store of Dr. F. L. ZEAR was entered by thieves, and goods to the amount of one hundred and twenty dollars carried off. An effort was first made to enter the store by forcing the back door, but from some cause or other was abandoned, and an entrance effected by the removal of bricks from the chimney.

On the same night, the smoke-house of Mrs. ELIZABETH NETTLES, was broken open and robbed of its entire contents, consisting of corn, meal, flour, bacon and other provisions. We hear of various other robberies committed within a few weeks past.

On Friday night last, the Cotton House of our fellow townsman, C. J. MCDOWALL, near Liberty Hill, with about twenty bales of cotton was consumed by fire, evidently the work of an incendiary. All of the cotton except four bales was covered by insurance.

Relief for the Destitute.

We copy from the correspondence of the Charleston Courier, the following synopsis of a bill which has passed the House of Representatives, for the relief of the destitution of the State. "It authorizes the Governor to contract with responsible parties to bring into the State and offer for sale, at actual cost, with a commission not exceeding 2-1-2 per cent. added at least one hundred thousand bushels of corn per month, if so much be needed, and farther provides that the contractors repay this amount to the State as soon as the Governor deems that the supply is sufficient and orders that the importation be discontinued. It also contemplates that the Commissioners of the Poor, for the several Tax Districts, should impose a certain per centage upon the last general tax, proportioned to the number of paupers in their respective districts, for the support of such paupers. The Bill also provides that the contractors be authorized and empowered to sell at the credit of the State, one hundred thousand dollars worth of corn to the necessitous, who are not paupers strictly, taking therefor their personal notes to be approved

ed by the Comptroller-General and payable on or before the first day of December, 1867, provided that not more than ten bushels of corn shall be sold to any one person except in case of the heads of families, who shall have the privilege of purchasing in addition to the said ten bushels, three bushels for each child under the age of sixteen years.

The Legislature.

This body has for the past week been actively engaged at work and completed most of the business prepared for this session. It is probable they will adjourn to-day, (Friday.) We have received the list of a number of acts which have been passed, but as adjournment is so near at hand, we prefer waiting, and giving the whole list in a connected form in our next issue.

"Calico."

We observe that charity has donned a "calico" ball-dress in Petersburg Va., and is urged by some newspapers to do the same thing in other cities for the relief of the destitute and suffering poor. Each lady desiring admittance to the ball is required to wear a substantial and plainly made calico dress, which, when she has used it for that single occasion, it is understood that she will turn over to a committee for distribution among indigent and ill-clad women. The fabric is one which admits the display of as much taste and elegance as any other, and the graceful woman of the South never appears more enchantingly lovely than when at home, arrayed in the simple neatness of "calico," she becomes the "angel of the household," whether in the relation of wife, mother, sister or daughter.—But while we commend charity in her proper sphere, and maintain the elegance of "calico" as an article of female attire, more eligible to good taste, than any other, under the peculiar circumstances of the Southern people, we protest against its appropriation as a ball-dress by charity, and against her meddling with it in any manner which may disparage it in the eyes of the fastidious. For we wish to see it put on through motives of justice, prudence, patriotism and honest pride, and worn by the women of the South, not for one day only, but as long as it is serviceable in the ball room, the drawing room, the theatre, the church, and wherever else a lady may go, until it shall become the gala dress of our country, or the nation, and prospects be greatly improved.

We have been ruined, politically and peculiarly by an aggressive and merciless war upon us. Nearly all are overwhelmed with debts which pressed lightly before our property was subverted but to bear up under which, now, with the added burthen of exorbitant and vindictive taxes is a perplexing and for too many, insoluble problem, and even if there be a few who are exempt from pressing debts, or from all debts, and with present affluence around them, let it not be forgotten that the storm which has wrecked us all, is not yet blown over, and that the planks on which they float, may, and probably will, be swamped by the next wave of revolutionary radicalism, and themselves whelmed in ruin as deeply as any of their neighbors. No southern man—no southern woman then, has any money to spend in extravagance. Every dime not required for comfort, should be hoarded, or invested re-productively, and that habilitment is in the best taste which is the cheapest, consistent with elegance, comfort and neatness, and that in the eyes of the world which involves any expenditure beyond what is necessary to secure these requisites whether for the ball-room, or elsewhere.

These truths must be palpable to all; they are pressed home by a sense of justice to creditors, who ought to be paid, by duty to offspring, who ought to have a provision beyond the reach of a capricious and vindictive conqueror, by due consideration for the tender father or husband whose now too frequent reveries, ere while unwonted, with perplexed brow, or deep drawn sigh, betray more clearly than words could express, the difficulties and annoyances which beset him; and by that honest pride which should make every lady of the South scorn, under her present circumstances, to imitate, or ape the FLORE McFLIMSIES of Northern or European opulence and profligacy. But unhappily, no woman can determine the style, or expense, of her wardrobe by the simple standard of her own good taste and sense of propriety. Fashion is a law unto her, which woman-nature cannot and should not disregard, and the few individuals whose example sets the fashion in any town or community are vested with a

formidable power over the fortunes of their country for good or evil. Before them therefore, we, in behalf of their impoverished countrymen, humbly lay our petition to be relieved of the "silk tax," which, in all its ramifications, is more onerous, perhaps, than the "cotton tax" itself. When the Yankee assessors of this tax, Godley, Frank Leslie, and others, come again, dismiss them with contempt, and from your own unerring good taste originate fashions of dress in a material adapted to the impoverished and ruined fortunes of your country, and you may live to see her again prosperous and happy. The money sunk in this tax would in ten years—nay, in less time—fill your country with factories—give her a monopoly of the cotton trade, and make her ultimately, one of the richest in the world, while you will individually grow opulent in an equal proportion. Free us, then, from this tax, and you will command and deserve the admiration of the world.

Maximilian will not Abdicate.

From recent advices from Mexico, it appears that Maximilian has re-considered his intention to abdicate, and has returned to the city of Mexico. He has been induced to do this by the petitions of influential citizens, backed by the Clergy, who have pledged themselves to raise twenty millions of dollars, to support and carry on the Empire. A letter in the New York Times says the French are fortifying, and show no signs of leaving the country.

Correspondence of the Camden Journal.

PANOLA Co., (Texas) Nov. 28, 1866.

Did you ever see a wild Texan? One "to the manor born?" He walks into your house, be-whiskered and be-spurred, and belted with a brace of six shooters. His unkempt hair falls in rat tails on his shoulders, and shades his wild sun burnt countenance. He wants to know if he can put his cattle your pasture for the night. You don't feel inclined to be troubled. He "argues the point"—you succumb. After supper he fills his pipe, and then your parlor with smoke, not of the most aromatic kind—you cough—sneeze—he regards it not, but being in a talking mood, he gives you many adventures of his frontier life. Wherein he speaks of "moving accidents, and hairbreadth 'scapes" from the terrible Camanche—of the prairies on fire—of the flight of frightened animals—of the stampede in herds of cattle, &c. You listen to his cajoling eloquence and "swear, 'faith, 'tis strange, 'tis passing strange." I have just returned from a sitting with some half dozen of these wild men of the prairies, and learn from them that the Indians are again on the war path, and are committing all kinds of depredations upon our frontiersmen—driving off their stock and carrying away women and children into captivity. One Texan told me he had recently been in three fights with them, and succeeded in killing a few, and running the others away from his settlement. Among the killed were found some white men, painted and dressed in full Indian costume. It appears, that these white men are from Kansas, and are at the head of these plundering and marauding expeditions. Governor THACKERBORN has asked for U. S. Troops to protect our frontiers. Gen. SHERMAN has promised to send them. Our Legislature has also tendered two or three Regiments of Texans for this service, provided the Federal Government will arm them.—It is to be hoped that something will be speedily done for the benefit of our citizens who are so exposed to these inroads of unprincipled white men and Indians.

This is the season for driving beef cattle to market. During the last month, the roads have been thronged with them, all wending their way to the slaughter pens of New Orleans.—One would suppose, that the good people of that city are fond of beef, if they consume all that go there. It cannot be wondered at, for these prairie beeves are the finest and fattest I ever saw.—When you go to New Orleans, stop at the St. Charles, and be sure to call for beef-steak, if you are fond of good things—my best chapeau on it, that your epicurean taste will be most pleasantly satiated.

The clear weather for the last week, with light frosts, has had a wonderful effect in maturing and opening the young cotton planted in June last on the overflowed lands on Red River, and its bayous. With fine weather for the next ten days, we may safely predict that a half crop will be realized.

Confidence in the labor of the freedmen is being restored, and the lands on Red River are commanding high prices,